



BARTON-UPON-HUMBER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1951

F.P.H. BIRTWHISTLE, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. Brooklebank, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BARTON-UPON-HUMBER.

Gentlemen,

I present for your information my Annual Report for 1951.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of Barton-upon-Humber is :-

6,343 acres land and inland waters.

838 " tidal waters.

The population is 6,304.

There are 2,113 inhabited houses in the Town.

The rateable value of the district is £27,622.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	57	44	101
Illegitimate.	5	3	8
Total.	62	47	109

Birth Rate. (excluding Still-births) 16.8 per 1,000 population.

<u>Still-births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	-	-	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	37	42	79

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	1	3
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
Total.	3	1	4

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	-	2
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
Total.	3	-	3

Death Rate (all ages) 12.5 per 1,000 population.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory.	-	1	1
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung.	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	2	2
Other malignant neoplasms.	2	7	9
Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	10	14	24
Coronary disease.	7	1	8
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1
Other heart disease.	4	5	9
Other circulatory disease.	1	-	1
Influenza.	1	-	1
Pneumonia.	1	1	2
Bronchitis.	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1	-	1
Congenital malformation.	1	-	1
Other ill-defined diseases.	2	5	7
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
All other accidents.	1	2	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following infectious diseases have been notified to me during the year :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Measles.	26	15	41
Whooping Cough.	45	53	98
Pneumonia.	3	2	5
Scarlet Fever.	-	3	3
Erysipelas.	1	-	1
Tuberculosis - Non pulmonary.	1	-	1

HEALTH SERVICES.

The Lindsey County Council has a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, a School Clinic and a Tuberculosis Clinic at its premises at No. 50, Holydyke.

Maternity Homes are provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board at Scunthorpe and Cleethorpes.

An ambulance operated by the County Council is stationed at the County Fire Station, Holydyke, and is available for the residents of Barton and the surrounding district.

Accommodation for Infectious diseases is provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board at Brumby and elsewhere.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at Lincoln.

WATER SUPPLY.

The mains water supply has been of good bacteriological quality. Six samples have been taken during the year and all have been reported to be satisfactory. In addition regular samples are taken both of the raw and treated water by the bulk suppliers, the North Lindsey Water Board.

The extension of mains has enabled more house connections to be made, and the number of houses connected to the main supply is steadily increasing.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

I commend to your careful consideration the very thorough work done by the Sanitary Inspector, as shown in his report.

The matter of housing is urgent, and must be regarded as such.

Tuberculosis is still prevalent, but it is decreasing, and will, I hope, be ultimately stamped out.

The incidence of the infectious diseases has been comparatively small.

The new houses which have been built are of a good type and I earnestly hope that the tenants will keep them in good condition.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemon,

Your obedient Servant,

F.P.H. BIRTHWISTLE.

Medical Officer of Health.

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

HOUSING

The work carried out during the year in connection with dwelling-houses can be divided into three main categories; the remedying of minor defects, usually by informal action under the Housing Acts or Public Health Acts; the treatment of certain unfit houses by Statutory action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and the completion of a block-by-block survey of dwelling-houses in the district; to enable decisions on future housing policy to be taken.

The Minor repairs carried out are usually the minimum needed to render the property weathertight and free from nuisances. The low level of controlled rents and the high cost of building labour and materials makes comprehensive repairs under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936, unreasonably expensive in many cases. This situation is a result of the application of pre-war legislation to post-war conditions. Regular repair and maintenance has not been possible in the last ten or twelve years with consequent deterioration in the general housing standard.

This has produced a number of houses which are unfit and cannot be made fit at a reasonable expense. Six of these houses have been dealt with during the year, using Demolition Order procedure. In every case the owners have given undertakings that the houses will not be used again for human habitation. This system is useful in particular cases, but it is not to be recommended as general policy, as it may produce derelict buildings which will be difficult and expensive to clear.

A properly planned programme of demolition and the rehousing of the displaced tenants is the only completely satisfactory method of dealing with this type of property.

The purpose of the Housing Survey was to classify the dwelling-houses in the district into groups thus forming a basis for future action. Detailed inspections of each house were not made, but it was possible to classify houses with a fair degree of accuracy by means of external inspection, personal knowledge and records already available. The result of the survey was that 198 houses were classified as being unfit and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense; of those, 21 were in such a condition as to warrant early action.

With this basic information, it should be possible for a long term housing programme to be worked out and put into operation.

The statistical details in respect of dwelling houses are as follows:-

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	202
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	515
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	33
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	42
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	170

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	144
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by Owners	6
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	1
(b) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	6

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(11) Number of persons concerned in such cases	9

2. FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD PREMISES

FOOD PREMISES

Routine visits were paid to food premises during the year and records of conditions and facilities available, were completed. Supplies of constant hot water were provided in three instances by the owners of the property. There is scope for improvement both in the structural condition of the buildings and in the provision of washing facilities and hot water supplies in many cases.

ICE CREAM

Sampling of ice cream and routine visits to manufacturers' and retailers' premises were continued through the year. The results of the bacteriological examination of samples show an improvement on the previous year and may indicate that the significance of efficient cleansing and sterilisation of utensils has been noted.

Of the twenty three samples taken, seventeen were placed in Grade 1, two in Grade 2, two in Grade 3 and two in Grade 4.

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply to the district is distributed by four retailers. Three of these sell only bottled pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk, the fourth sells "loose" milk which is produced as tuberculin tested but is sold as undesignated. In addition there are twenty-one distributors of bottled sterilised milk.

Eight samples of milk of various designations were taken during the year and all complied with the statutory tests applicable to the designation.

In addition, one sample was taken from a producer retailer and sent for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. This sample was taken for the Lindsey County Council who have a duty to prevent the sale of tuberculous milk in the County.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following table gives details of meat inspection carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	825	229	97	2,027	519
Number inspected	825	229	97	2,027	519
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	13	8	47	14
Carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned.	358	49	-	79	79
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	44%	27%	8%	6%	16%
<u>Tuberculosis Only:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	6	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	29	58	1	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4%	28%	1%	-	1%

Included in the foregoing totals are the following numbers of animals which were admitted for emergency slaughter.

Cattle excluding Cows	54
Cows	55
Calves	22
Sheep	154
Pigs	199

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption was 17 tons, 11 cwts which included 12 tons, 6 cwts from casualties, leaving a balance of 5 tons, 5 cwts from animals which passed through the grading centre. This weight of 5 tons, 5 cwts is more than two tons less than in the previous year in spite of the fact that 53 more bovines of all types and 303 more pigs were slaughtered in 1951 than in 1950. This may be due to the fact that a greater proportion of home bred cattle were slaughtered in 1951 than in the previous year.

It is understood that additional slaughtering and hanging space is to be provided at the slaughterhouse during 1952. This alteration is most necessary as the present accommodation is inadequate in every way, particularly in the autumn peak slaughtering period.

3. WATER SUPPLY

Routine samples from the public supply and a number of samples from pumps were taken and sent for bacteriological examination. The results in respect of the Public supply were consistently satisfactory. Two wells supplying water through pumps to seven houses were found to be seriously polluted and a mains supply of water was provided. In addition a number of houses were connected to the public mains chiefly in connection with the conversion of earth closets to water closets.

Approximately 64% of the houses in the district have an internal piped supply, 24% have a shared piped supply and the remaining 12% rely upon pumps and bores.

A notable development during the year was the completion by the North Lindsey Water Board of two high pressure mains from their Barton pumping station to reservoirs outside the district. By special agreement with the Board, piped supplies have been drawn from these mains for eight farms and their adjoining cottages, situated on the south and south-west of the district. These farms had previously relied upon individual pumps and bores.

4. GENERAL SANITATION

NUISANCES

Total number of nuisances during year:-

(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	55
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory notice issued	6
" " not issued	-

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice.
Smoke	4	-
Accumulation of refuse	3	-
Fowls, pigs and other animals	1	-
Dampness	7	3
Yards repaved or repaired	4	-
Other nuisances	36	3

DRAINAGE

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	99
Drains unstopped, repaired, etc	31

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

No. of houses with pail closets in collection area	561
No. of pail closets repaired	29
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	68
No. of houses with water-closets in district	1400
No. of water-closets repaired	3

It will be noted that the number of earth closets converted to water closets during the year was thirteen less than in the previous year. This reduction in numbers was chiefly due to the long time lag between the receipt of an order for the work by the tradesman and its completion. Thirty one of these conversions were carried out on a voluntary basis and the remainder after the service of Statutory Notices.

Owing to recent wage increases, the cost of cleansing earth closets is increasing. It is imperative therefore, that conversions should be carried out as quickly as possible. The present time is particularly appropriate for this, as the number of new houses likely to be completed during the year will be less than in previous years, when the number of earth closets converted to water closets has been counter-acted by the new houses completed. There is an opportunity in 1952 substantially to reduce the total amount of work required in the collection of nightsoil and house refuse by converting earth closets to water closets as expeditiously as possible.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained throughout the year in spite of the new houses which were completed. This was made possible by re-organising collection rounds as closet conversions were carried out and utilising the time so saved for the collection of house refuse.

The condition of the Dam Road Tip is satisfactory. Soil for covering the refuse was obtained during the year and the system of mechanical spreading by means of a light bulldozer, introduced in 1950, was successfully continued.

RODENT CONTROL

In the first quarter of 1951, the systematic inspection and treatment of premises, which was commenced in 1950, was completed. Thereafter, individual infestations were dealt with upon complaint.

A further routine survey of those premises which had revealed large infestations in 1950 was carried out in the autumn of 1951. This showed a substantial reduction in the rat population, indicating that the systematic treatment has been worth while.

No. of properties inspected during year	734
No. of properties found to be infested and treated	395
No. of properties not infested	339

The main cause of rat infestation in dwelling-houses has been found to be defective drainage systems. Where these are found steps are taken to repair or renew them as necessary. These conditions are chiefly found in the oldest part of the town where the lack of manholes on the main sewerage system makes effective control of rats in the sewers impossible.

